



NEWS RELEASE

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“WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE!” BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE – AND FREE!

In 2000, approximately 22 million single, divorced and widowed women who were eligible to vote didn't cast their ballots in elections, and another 16 million weren't even registered to vote. Women, on their own, can transform the face of American politics.

In an effort to encourage women to not only register, but also to vote, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) has updated its very popular “Why Women Should Vote!” booklet. This booklet frames some of the issues that impact women in contemporary perspectives and statistics to demonstrate the importance of being involved in the political process. The booklet also provides questions that might be asked of candidates on these issues and encourages women to attend candidate forums and discover where candidates stand.

LLWC Commissioners are working on a long term strategic plan for systemic change, focusing on Women's Policy & Leadership and Women's Health. Through their work on Women's Policy & Leadership, Commissioners are working to actively engage women in the political process through education and tools. This work is unduplicated and supports a common vision of success for the women in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

The booklets are available while supplies last at no charge by calling the LLWC Office at 441.7716.

President John F. Kennedy established the first Commission on the Status of Women on December 14, 1961 by Executive Order 10980. A bipartisan organization comprised of 26 members, the Commission was chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt. Members included educators, writers, leaders of women's organizations, union leaders, five Cabinet members and members of both houses of Congress.

The Commission examined discrimination against women and recommended ways to eliminate it. It studied legislation and services that would help women to fulfill their roles, whether as housewives or as workers. The Commission's final report, “American Women,” prompted President Kennedy to sign another executive order creating the Interdepartmental Committee on the Status of Women. Since that time, Commissions on the Status of Women (or Women's Commissions) have emerged throughout the country, developed by state, county and city governments to support the empowerment and education of all women and girls.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission was established in 1976 with an Advisory Board of fifteen community volunteers.